

Abstract

Please Amend the Abstract as follows:

A screening method for a compound which inhibits a ribonuclease H activity of a reverse transcriptase which includes incubating a substrate with an appropriate primer hybridized to an appropriate template, a metal ion and a reverse transcriptase to form a complex, adding a test substance, and after these steps adding dNTPs to initiate DNA synthesis, measuring the amount of nucleic acid cleaved from the template, and comparing the measured value with a measured value in the absence of a test substance.

By using

Template: 5'-NRWXZ-3'

Primer: 3'-Y-5'

—— (wherein, Y hybridizes to X of a template;

N is 13—19 mer DNA, RNA or a chimeric nucleic acid,

R is RNA,

W is DNA or a chimeric nucleic acid,

X is 15 mer or more DNA, RNA or a chimeric nucleic acid,

Y is a same-length DNA, RNA or a chimeric nucleic acid with X to which Y hybridizes. In

case that X to which Y hybridizes is DNA, Y is DNA. In case that X to which Y hybridizes is

RNA, Y is RNA. In case that X to which Y hybridizes is a chimeric nucleic acid, Y is a

chimeric nucleic acid (In the chimeric nucleic acid, in case that X to which Y hybridizes is

DNA, Y is DNA. In case that X to which Y hybridizes is RNA, Y

is RNA),

Z is DNA, RNA or a chimeric nucleic acid

(provided that, W and Z can be absent));

a test compound can be preincubated with a reverse transcriptase-substrate complex formed

Application No. 10/590,115
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2008
Amendment dated December 30, 2008

Docket No.: 0032-0292PUS1

~~under the presence of a metal ion and a screening method for a substance which inhibits
polymerization-dependent RNase H activity is established.~~